

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	5th Artillery Regiment in Ceske Budejovice / NCO school, fuel depot, reorganization of artillery regiments.	DATE DISTR.	81 JUN 1957
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. The 5th Artillery Regiment in Ceske Budejovice is subordinate to the 1st Rifle Division in Ceske Budejovice. The regiment numbers about 1,200 - 1,400 enlisted men and 103 officers. The regiment is quartered at the village of Ctyri Dvory on the northwest outskirts of Ceske Budejovice.

2. The 5th Artillery Regiment of the following units:

- Headquarters and staff
- Three battalions equipped as follows:
 - 1st Battalion: 12 Czechoslovak Model 122-millimeter howitzers.
 - 2nd Battalion: 12 Czechoslovak Model 52 83-millimeter guns.
 - 3rd Battalion: 12 Soviet Model 76-millimeter guns.
 Each battalion was divided into three batteries; each battery had three sections, two sections with two guns each and the third consisting of auxiliary personnel such as range finders, signallers, etc. Each gun section was divided into two subsections with one gun.
- Regimental NCO school, attendance: 110 enlisted men.
- Regimental Headquarters Company, consisting of drivers, cooks, clerks, etc.
- Engineers Company, 60 enlisted men.
- Chemical Warfare Company, 20 enlisted men.

3. The above data refer to the old type of organization; a reorganization started taking place from 1955 onwards. Under the new organization, which concerned all the armed forces, the regiment was to have 54 - 72 new 85-millimeter guns, a new production of the K.Y. Voroshilov Works in Dubnica nad Vahom. The following changes had already taken place by the fall of 1956:

- One member of the gun crew was dropped out; thus the crew was reduced to one NCO and four men.
- The number of reconnaissance personnel, range finders, and signallers was considerably increased in proportion to the total number of gun crews.
- New towing trucks of the type V-3-S substantially shortened the time required to get the guns into the firing position.
- Batteries will have 6 - 8 guns, battalions 18 - 24 guns and the whole regiment 54 - 72 guns.

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-2-

4. Among the reasons for the ^{re-}organization mentioned in the NCO school, it was stated that artillery battalions would no longer be employed individually for firing, but so-called "ramparts of fire" would be used. The new organization is to help in the concentration of artillery fire. In spite of this explanation, it was generally thought among the NCO's that the new organization was brought about by the shortage of officers. For instance, in the 5th Artillery Regiment more than half of the functions intended for officers were occupied by NCO's. It was openly stated in political lectures that only those who could be counted on as politically reliable were to be promoted as new officers, although it was unfortunately necessary to retain older officers for whom there was for the present no substitute in some positions, but as soon a replacement was found, they would be retired. The political officer stated also that what the regime needed were capable and experienced officers who would in the event of a conflict turn their weapons even against their own men. Hence many positions were held by officers who were absolutely lacking in ability but who were politically dependable from the regime's point of view.

5. Training in future is to be oriented chiefly towards the possibility of atomic and bacteriological warfare.

6. Vehicles owned by the regiment included: 45 of the new V-3-S trucks, about 25 trucks of older Czechoslovak models, and about six trucks supplied by UNRRA.

7. A tank unit of 200 men is also billeted in the 5th Artillery Regiment's barracks. The unit is equipped with about 10-12 T-34/85 tanks and the same number of self-propelled guns.

3. Personnel:

Lt. Col. Sadek (fmu), 1st Rifle Division staff officer.

25X1

Major Zeman (fmu), commanding officer of the 5th Artillery Regiment.

Captain Fric (fmu), deputy CO.

Sr. Lt. Hejna (fmu), deputy CO for political affairs.

Sr. Lt. Zeman (fmu), commanding officer of the regimental NCO school.

Sr. Lt. Cizek (fmu), NCO school instructor.

Lt. Juracka (fmu), NCO school instructor.

Sr. Lt. Nemec (fmu)

Captain Kuna (fmu), in charge of administration of barracks

Legend for sketch

1. HQ and staff of the 5th Artillery Regiment, with an aerial on the roof of the building.
2. NCO school; barracks, classrooms.
3. Tank unit building; single-storyed with an aerial on the roof.
4. Garages and store rooms.
5. Tank unit quarters; two-storyed.
6. Mess and kitchen for the artillery regiment; a wooden hut.

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-3-

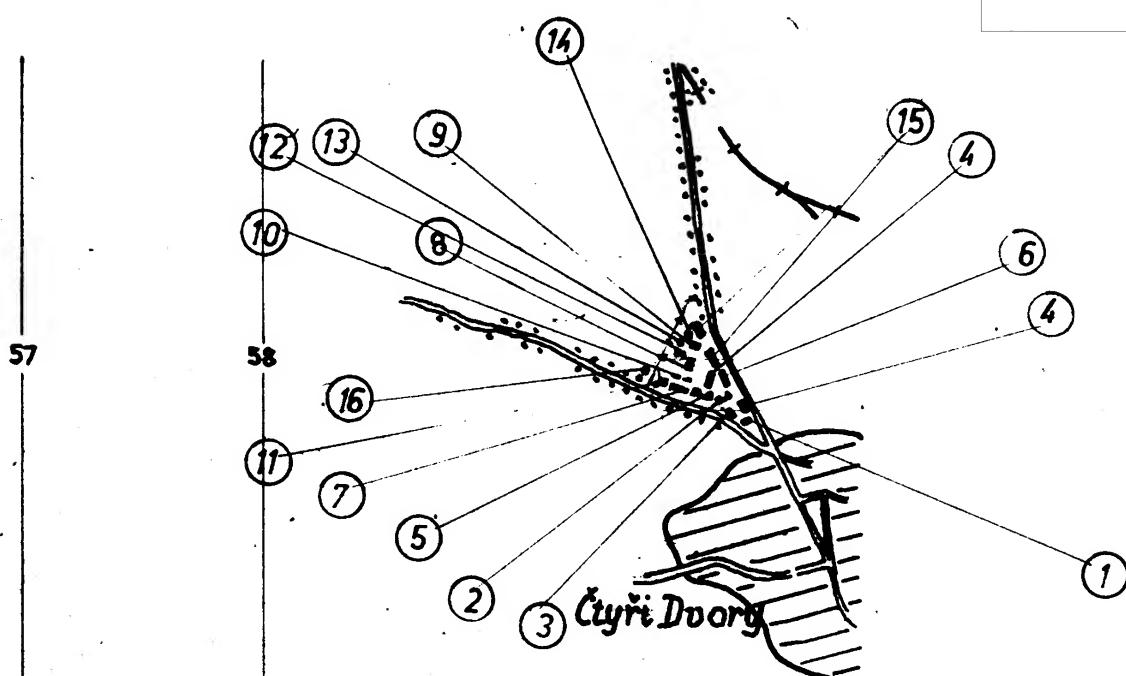
7. Ammunition stores; a wooden hut.
8. Artillery quarters; wooden huts.
9. Infirmary.
10. Gun garages.
11. Gymnasium.
12. Garage.
13. Tank repair workshop.
14. Tank unit HQ; three-storyed building.
15. Arms and equipment depot for the artillery regiment.
16. Newly built fuel depot.

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